

## Hazing Policy

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Policy Number	STU-018
Effective Date	
Responsible Office/Person	Student AFFAIRS – Office of Conduct and Dispute Resolution
Related Policies	Code of Student Conduct
Additional History	This policy updates STU-18 from December 17, 2007

### I. POLICY STATEMENT

“Hazing,” constitutes a violation of the UMass Dartmouth Code of Student Conduct and Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 269, sections 17-19 and as such, is prohibited on the UMass Dartmouth campus and in all of its programs and activities.

### II. PURPOSE

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth is a community of learners in which mutual respect and concern for the safety and well-being of one another is required of all members of the community.

### III. DEFINITIONS

Hazing includes but is not limited to any method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. The implied or expressed consent of the victim will not be a defense for hazing. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing are not neutral acts; they are violations of this policy.

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 269 contains the following information:

#### Section 17

Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment. The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forces physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any student or other person, or which subjects such student or other persons to extreme mental stress,

including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

#### IV. PROCEDURES

##### Section 18

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such a crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practical. Whoever fails to report such a crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

##### Section 19

Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post-secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institutions or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams, or organizations. Each such group, team, or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each group, team, or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institute an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen, that each plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and section seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with the appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The boards of regents and, in the case secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution that fails to make such report.

**Reporting Information**

UMass Dartmouth students and staff are expected to report incidents of hazing. Incidents may be reported to the Department of Public Safety, the Office of Student Affairs, or the Office of Student Conduct and Dispute Resolution.

V. RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for enforcement of this policy is assigned to the Department of Public Safety in conjunction with the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Student Conduct and Dispute Resolution.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

None.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Dr. Robert E. Johnson, Chancellor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

